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Protracted conflicts in the GUAM area and their implications for international peace, security and development

Security Council
Sixty-third year

Identical letters dated 21 August 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit the attached statements of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia dated 20 and 21 August 2008 (see annex).

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as documents of the sixty-second session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 16, "Protracted conflicts in the GUAM area and their implications for international peace, security and development", and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Irakli **Alasania**
Ambassador
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Annex to the identical letters from the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Enclosure 1
Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia

On yet another illegal act carried out by the Russian Federation's armed forces

It has become known that the Russian Federation's armed forces illegally stationed on the territory of Georgia are mounting yet another provocation. In particular, Russian servicemen with the use of appropriate equipment are building a fixed control checkpoint on the Senaki-Poti highway, in the vicinity of the entrance to Poti, on the so-called 7th kilometre.

The above-mentioned fact is evidence of the Russian side's repeated attempts to proceed with and further expand its military intervention in and occupation of the territory of Georgia. It needs to be noted that Poti is located approximately 30 kilometres from the conflict zone of Abkhazia and approximately 160 kilometres from the conflict zone of the Tskhinvali region.

Against the background of the statement of the Russian Federation made at the highest level, the actual facts of withdrawal of Russian troops from the territory of Georgia point quite to the contrary.

We once again call on the international community to employ all resources at its disposal to put an end to Russian aggression.

Tbilisi, 20 August 2008

Enclosure 2
Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia

The Russian Federation undertook to restrict the freedom of movement of the diplomatic corps throughout the territory of Georgia

On 21 August 2008 the Embassy of the Russian Federation to Georgia sent a note to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia. The note, in particular, indicated that: "in order to arrange civilized movement throughout Gori for the delegations and persons intending to arrive or already present in Georgia and planning to travel to Gori, the Embassy requests advance notification on any such travel plan, delegation members, travel objectives and duration, transport vehicles and itinerary. In the given situation the Ministry of Defence of the Russian Federation must obtain such information in order to give respective instructions to the peacekeeping command, which will further ensure unhindered movement".

In the aftermath of ethnic cleansing and mass and flagrant violation of human rights perpetrated by the Russian army on the territory of Georgia, the Russian Federation undertook to restrict the freedom of movement of the diplomatic corps throughout the territory of Georgia. This points clearly to the degree of Moscow's compliance with the ceasefire agreement signed by the Russian President and provides another proof of continued occupation of Georgian territory by the Russian armed forces.

By undertaking such actions, the Russian Federation grossly violates provisions of the 1961 Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations. Article 26 of the Convention, in particular, stipulates that the receiving State shall ensure to all members of the diplomatic corps freedom of movement and travel throughout all of its territory.

Russia's actions in Georgia contradict such universally recognized norms and principles of international common and codified law, which provide the basis and guarantee for establishing each State as a subject of international law within the international system.

It is a regrettable fact that the Russian Federation, as a legal successor to the Soviet Union, continues to base its actions on Soviet-imperialist traditions.

Tbilisi, 21 August 2008